

## **NOTICE OF COMPLETION**

**State of California  
Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Project Title:** Adopting Categorical Waivers and General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities in the North Coast Region.

**Project Location:** All or parts of Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, Siskiyou, and Modoc Counties

**Project Description:**

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is responsible for regulating waste discharges from timber harvesting activities that could affect the quality and beneficial uses of waters in the North Coast Region. As a responsible agency, the Regional Water Board annually reviews hundreds of proposed timber operation plans that are submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), which is the State management agency responsible for plan approvals on non-federal lands. The Regional Water Board also reviews federal timber sales proposed by the U.S. Forest Service on public lands. This project involves the adoption and implementation of an Order waiving waste discharge requirements and providing general waste discharge requirements for discharges associated with timber harvest activities on non-federal lands and those public lands managed by the US Forest Service. Any such waiver would be conditional and could be terminated at any time by the Regional Water Board. The Regional Water Board determines that timber harvest activities conducted in compliance with the four categories of waivers described in this will not adversely affect the quality of or the beneficial uses of the waters of the State, and will not be against the public interest pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) Section 13269. This Order also contains general waste discharge requirements for timber harvest activities which do not qualify for a waiver pursuant to Section 13269.

The project authorizes discharges associated with timber harvest activities to proceed in compliance with the CWC. These activities encompass federal lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and non-federal lands managed by CDF. “Timber Harvest Activities” means all activities on timberland relating to timber harvesting, including the cutting or removal or both of timber and other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the work incidental thereto, including, but not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, firebreaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, beds for the falling of trees, fire hazard abatement, site preparation that involves disturbance of soil or burning of vegetation following timber harvesting activities, and herbicide application, but excluding treemarking, surveying or roadflagging. “Commercial purposes” includes the

cutting or removal of trees which are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or the cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber, including but not limited to residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects.

Lead Agency: North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Address where  
Negative Declaration  
Available:

5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Review Period: November 6, 2002 - December 6, 2002

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